

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice and amend claims 3 and 6-8. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The single pole magnetic head according to claim~~

~~1.~~ A single pole magnetic head comprising:

an auxiliary pole;

a main pole terminated at a position receding from a medium-opposed surface,

the main pole having a lower surface opposed to the auxiliary pole at a distance;

a connection piece connecting the rear of the main pole to the auxiliary pole at a center of a coil pattern;

an intermediate magnetic layer extending forward toward the medium-opposed surface from an upper surface of the main pole and terminating at a position receding from the medium-opposed surface; and

a tip magnetic layer extending to the medium-opposed surface from an upper surface of the intermediate magnetic layer, and being exposed at the medium-opposed surface;

wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a front end of the main pole.

3. (Currently Amended) The single pole magnetic head according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein a primary magnetic pole tip region is defined in the tip magnetic layer, the primary magnetic pole tip region extending rearward from the medium-opposed surface, keeping a constant lateral width.

4. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a rear end of the primary magnetic pole tip region.

5. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein the primary magnetic pole tip region has a front end surface exposed at the medium-opposed surface, a leading edge of the front end surface being reduced in lateral width than a trailing edge of the front end surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The single pole magnetic head according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the main pole so as to receive the intermediate magnetic layer.

7. (Currently Amended) The single pole magnetic head according to ~~claim~~
+ claim 2, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the intermediate magnetic layer so
as to receive the tip magnetic layer.

8. (Currently Amended) The single pole magnetic head according to ~~claim~~
+ claim 2, wherein said intermediate magnetic layer defines an inclined surface expanding
outward from an outer periphery of the tip magnetic layer, a foot of the inclined surface being
received on the main pole.

9. (Canceled)